

1. A method of delivering a postal mailpiece, said method comprising the steps of:

detecting a proxy address on the postal mailpiece;

5 using the detected proxy address to obtain a recipient postal address from a database of recipient postal addresses and associated recipient proxy addresses, the addresses within the database being defined by postal recipients associated with the addresses; and

10 affixing the obtained recipient postal address to the postal mailpiece so that the mailpiece can be delivered to a physical address corresponding to the obtained recipient postal address.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of detecting the proxy address comprises detecting a symbol on the postal mailpiece that corresponds to a predefined proxy addressing protocol.

15 3. A method of creating and maintaining proxy addresses for use with a postal mailpiece, said method comprising the steps of:

inputting a proxy address;

inputting a recipient postal address associated with the input proxy address;

and

storing the proxy address and associated recipient postal address in a list of proxy addresses and associated recipient postal addresses.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the list is stored in a computer readable storage medium.

5           5. The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of ensuring that the input proxy address does not match a proxy address contained in the list.

6. The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of ensuring that the input proxy address complies with an addressing protocol.

10           7. The method of claim 6, wherein the addressing protocol comprises a predefined symbol used to identify the input proxy address as a valid proxy address.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the symbol comprises at least a # character.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the symbol comprises at least a @ character.

15           10. The method of claim 7, wherein the symbol comprises at least a % character.

11. The method of claim 6, wherein the addressing protocol comprises a predefined addressing presentation format used to identify the input proxy address as a valid proxy address.

12. The method of claim 3 further comprising the steps of:

5 inputting a new proxy address associated with a first proxy address and first recipient postal address contained in the list; and

replacing the first proxy address with the new proxy address in the list without modifying the first recipient postal address.

13. The method of claim 3 further comprising the steps of:

10 inputting a new recipient postal address associated with a first proxy address and first recipient postal address contained in the list; and

replacing the first recipient postal address with the new recipient postal address in the list without modifying the first recipient postal address.

14. The method of claim 3 wherein the input proxy address is input from a  
15 recipient associated with the recipient postal address.

15. A method of identifying a recipient postal address from a postal mailpiece comprising a proxy address, said method comprising the steps of:

detecting the proxy address on the postal mailpiece; and

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inputting a proxy address;

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storing the proxy address and associated mail handling instruction in a list of

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using the detected proxy address to obtain at least one associated mail

handling instruction from the list; and

delivering the mailpiece in accordance with the obtained mail handling

19. The method of claim 17, wherein the input mail handling instruction

5 20. The method of claim 17, wherein the input mail handling instruction

21. The method of claim 17, wherein the input mail handling instruction

22. A method of providing value-added services for a mailpiece comprising

detecting the proxy address on the postal mailpiece;

using the detected proxy address to obtain a recipient value-added service

15 tracking a delivery of the mailpiece to provide the obtained value-added

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the obtained recipient value-added

24. The method of claim 22, wherein the wherein the obtained recipient value-added service comprises a mail flow analyzing service.

25. The method of claim 22, wherein the obtained recipient value-added service comprises a proxy address timeout service.

5 26. A system for delivering a postal mailpiece comprising:

a computer readable storage medium, said storage medium comprising a database of proxy addresses and associated recipient postal addresses, the addresses within the database being defined by postal recipients associated with the addresses; and

10 a first database interface computer coupled to said storage medium by a communication medium, said first database interface computer inputting a proxy address obtained from the postal mailpiece, said first database interface computer accessing said database with said input proxy address to obtain an associated recipient postal address, wherein the postal mailpiece is subsequently delivered to a physical address corresponding to said obtained recipient postal address.

15 27. The system of claim 26, wherein said first database interface computer affixes said obtained recipient postal address on the postal mailpiece.

28. The system of claim 26, wherein said communication medium is a computer network.

29. The system of claim 26, wherein said communication medium is the Internet.

30. The system of claim 26 further comprising a second database interface computer coupled to said computer readable storage medium by a second communication medium, said second database interface computer providing a means for recipients to modify addresses within said database.

31. The system of claim 30, wherein said second database interface computer allows a recipient associated with a first proxy address and a first recipient postal address to modify the first recipient postal address without modifying the first proxy address.

32. The system of claim 30, wherein said second database interface computer allows a recipient associated with a first proxy address and a first recipient postal address to modify the first proxy address without modifying the first recipient postal address.

33. The system of claim 30 further comprising a third database interface computer coupled to said computer readable storage medium by a third communication medium, said third database interface computer providing a means for recipients to register with said system and become authorized to modify addresses within said database.

34. A system of identifying a recipient postal address from a postal mailpiece comprising a proxy address, said system comprising:

means for detecting the proxy address on the postal mailpiece; and

5 means for using the detected proxy address to obtain a recipient postal address from a list of recipient postal addresses and associated recipient proxy addresses, wherein proxy addresses contained within the list are defined by postal recipients associated with the proxy addresses.

35. The system of claim 34, wherein said detecting means comprises means for detecting an identifier on the postal mailpiece that corresponds to a predefined proxy addressing protocol.

36. An article of manufacture comprising a machine-readable storage medium having stored therein indicia of a plurality of machine-executable control program steps, the control program comprising the steps of:

detecting a proxy address on a postal mailpiece;

15 using the detected proxy address to obtain a recipient postal address from a list of recipient postal addresses and associated recipient proxy addresses; and



delivering the mailpiece to a physical address corresponding to the obtained recipient postal address, wherein proxy addresses contained within the list are defined by postal recipients associated with the proxy addresses.

37. The article of manufacture of claim 36, wherein the control program  
5 further comprises the step of modifying the list of recipient postal and proxy addresses by recipients authorized to modify the list.

38. The article of manufacture of claim 36, wherein said step of detecting the proxy address comprises detecting an identifier on the postal mailpiece that corresponds to a predefined proxy addressing protocol.

10 39. An article of manufacture comprising a machine-readable storage medium having stored therein indicia of a plurality of machine-executable control program steps, the control program comprising the steps of:

inputting a proxy address;

inputting a recipient postal address associated with the input proxy address;

15 and

storing the proxy address and associated recipient postal address in a list of proxy addresses and associated recipient postal addresses.

40. The article of manufacture of claim 39, wherein the list is stored in a computer readable storage medium.

41. The article of manufacture of claim 39, wherein the program further comprises the step of ensuring that the input proxy address does not match a proxy  
5 address contained in the list.

42. The article of manufacture of claim 39, wherein the program further comprises the step of ensuring that the input proxy address complies with an addressing protocol.

43. An article of manufacture comprising a machine-readable storage  
10 medium having stored therein indicia of a plurality of machine-executable control program steps, the control program comprises:

detecting the proxy address on the postal mailpiece; and

using the detected proxy address to obtain a recipient postal address from a list of recipient postal addresses and associated recipient proxy addresses,

15 wherein proxy addresses contained within the list are defined by postal recipients associated with the proxy addresses.

44. The article of manufacture of claim 43, wherein said step of detecting the proxy address comprises detecting an identifier on the postal mailpiece that corresponds to a predefined proxy addressing protocol.

45. The article of manufacture of claim 43, wherein said step of detecting  
5 the proxy address comprises detecting a predetermined presentation format that  
corresponds to a predefined proxy addressing protocol.

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